

XMM–Newton view of a hard X-ray transient IGR J17497–2821

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ABSTRACT

We present spectral and energy-dependent timing characteristics of the hard X-ray transient IGR J17497–2821 based on *XMM–Newton* observations performed five and nine days after its outburst on 2006 September 17. We find that the source spectra can be well described by a hard ($\Gamma \sim 1.50$) power law and a weak multicolour disc blackbody with inner disc temperature $kT_{\text{in}} \sim 0.2$ keV. A broad iron $K\alpha$ line with FWHM $\sim 27\,000$ km s^{−1}, consistent with that arising from an accretion disc truncated at large radius, was also detected. The power density spectra of IGR J17497–2821, derived from the high-resolution (30 μ s) timing-mode *XMM–Newton* observations, are characterized by broad-band noise components that are well modelled by three Lorentzians. The shallow power-law slope, low disc luminosity and the shape of the broad-band power density spectrum indicate that the source was in the hard state. The rms variability in the softer energy bands (0.3–2 keV) found to be ~ 1.3 times that in 2–5 and 5–10 keV energy bands. We also present the energy-dependent timing analysis of the *RXTE*/PCA data, where we find that at higher energies, the rms variability increases with energy.

Key words: methods: observational – X-rays: binaries – X-rays: individual: IGR J17497–2821.

1 INTRODUCTION

The hard X-ray transient IGR J17497–2821 (Soldi et al. 2006) was discovered by the IBIS telescope (Ubertini et al. 2003) on board *INTEGRAL* mission (Winkler et al. 2003) on 2006 September 17 and subsequently observed by several other high-energy missions. *Swift* observed the transient in two pointing on 2006 September 19 and 22, and refined the position to arcsecond level (Walter et al. 2007). The average *INTEGRAL* and *Swift* X-ray telescope (XRT) spectra were jointly well described by an absorbed hard power law ($\Gamma = 1.67 \pm 0.06$) with a high-energy cut-off at ~ 200 keV. *Suzaku* observed IGR J17497–2821 eight days after its discovery, during 2006 September 25–26, for a total of about 53 ks. *Suzaku* revealed the presence of an accretion disc ($kT \sim 0.2$ keV) (Paizis et al. 2009). Modelling the continuum with a cut-off power law, the photon index was found to be ~ 1.45 with a cut-off energy at ~ 150 keV. A mild reflection component was also detected in the spectrum (Paizis et al. 2009). The *Rossi X-ray Timing Explorer* (*RXTE*) observed this source during 2006 September 20–29 in seven pointings. From the *RXTE* follow-ups, the source spectrum was found to be

constant with a power-law index $\Gamma \sim 1.55$. *RXTE* data are well represented by an absorbed Comptonized spectrum with an iron edge at ~ 7 keV (Rodríguez et al. 2007). Timing analysis of the *RXTE* data revealed the presence of three Lorentzian components in the power density spectra (PDSs) of IGR J17497–2821. The source was observed by *Chandra* on 2006 October 1, for 19 ks during its decay phase when source flux had dropped considerably. The position of IGR J17497–2821 was improved to $\alpha_{J2000} = 17^{\text{h}}49^{\text{m}}38^{\text{s}}.037$, $\delta_{J2000} = -28^{\circ}21'17''.37$. The *Chandra* observation also found evidence for a cold accretion disc (~ 0.2 keV). There was a further hint of He-like Si-absorption line at 1.867 keV (Paizis et al. 2007).

Previously reported results indicate that the source never reached the high/soft state during its outburst, and remained in the hard state with a possible detection of an accretion disc component. However, there are significant differences in the estimates of the power-law photon index and the nature and extent of the accretion disc. Also, detailed timing analysis of the available data has not been performed before.

Among the existing high-energy missions, *X-ray Multi-Mirror Newton* (*XMM–Newton*) is the only mission that provides good quality spectrum, and high time resolution continuous light curves simultaneously in one of the fast modes. In this paper, we utilize two *XMM–Newton* observations of IGR J17497–2821 performed in the

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Table 1. List of observations of IGR J17497–2821 by *XMM–Newton*.

| Obs.ID | Date of observation | Exposure time (ks) | Offset (arcmin) | Count rate ^a (counts s ^{−1}) |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---|
| 0410580401(obs 1) | 2006 Sep. 22 | 33 | 0.053 | 43.5 |
| 0410580501(obs 2) | 2006 Sep. 26 | 32 | 0.051 | 39.4 |

^aNet count rate is taken from the *XMM–Newton* EPIC pn timing-mode data after choosing a source region of width 15 pixel from the centre in the 0.3–10 keV energy band and applying standard filtering criteria (see Section 2).

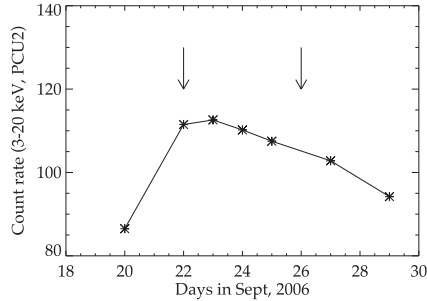


Figure 1. *RXTE/PCA* light curve of IGR J17497–2821 from September 20–29. Plotted are the mean net counts of PCU2 for each obsID. The time of the two *XMM–Newton* follow-up observations are marked by arrows.

timing mode and investigate spectral and temporal characteristics of the transient. In Section 2, we discuss the details of the *XMM–Newton* observations and the data reduction techniques used. We discuss the results of the analysis of the *XMM–Newton* spectra in Section 3. This is followed in Section 4 by the timing analysis of the *XMM–Newton* data, and also the energy-dependent timing analysis of *RXTE* observations. In Section 5, we summarize our results from the spectral and timing analysis performed in this work.

2 XMM–NEWTON OBSERVATIONS AND DATA REDUCTION

IGR J17497–2821 was observed by *XMM–Newton* for the first time on 2006 September 22 (obsID-0410580401, hereafter obs 1), for approximately 33 ks (see Table 1). A second observation (obsID-0410580501, hereafter obs 2) was performed for 32 ks on 2006 September 26. The two *XMM–Newton* observations are marked on the *RXTE/PCA* light curve in Fig. 1. The *XMM–Newton* Observatory (Jansen et al. 2001) contains three 1500 cm² X-ray telescopes, each with an European Photon Imaging Camera (EPIC) (0.1–15 keV) at the focus. Two of the EPIC imaging spectrometers use metal oxide semiconductor (MOS) CCDs (Turner et al. 2001) and one uses pn CCDs (Strüder et al. 2001). Both the *XMM–Newton* observations of IGR J17497–2821 provided the data from the three EPICs MOS1, MOS2 and pn. The MOS1 camera was operated in the imaging mode. The central CCD of MOS2 camera, containing the source, was operated in the timing mode whereas other CCDs were operated in the imaging mode. The EPIC-pn camera was operated in timing mode.

We processed the *XMM–Newton* observation data files, using the Science Analysis Software (*SAS* version 14.0), by applying the latest calibration files available as on 2015 January 9. In the imaging mode MOS1 data, the source was affected with severe pile-up and we did not use the MOS1 data further. The EPIC-pn camera and the central CCD of MOS2 camera were operated in the timing mode in both the observations. In this mode only one CCD chip

is operated and the data are collapsed into a one-dimension row and read out at high speed, with the second dimension replaced by timing information. This allows a time resolution of 30 μ s for EPIC-pn and 1.75 ms for MOS2. From the EPIC-pn/MOS2 timing-mode data we have created images of the source using the *SAS* task ‘EVSELECT’. In the timing mode, the RAWY coordinate gives the timing information and hence the source is visible as a bright strip when plotting RAWX against RAWY.

To check whether the data were affected with soft proton flaring, the light curve was extracted by selecting events with PATTERN = 0 and energy in the range 10–12 keV. No evidence for flaring particle background in the EPIC-pn and MOS2 data was found as the count rates were steady. Due to this reason we did not apply any filtering. The EPIC-pn cleaned event list was extracted by selecting events with PATTERN ≤ 4 , FLAG = 0 and energy in the 0.3–10 keV range. From the EPIC-pn cleaned event list, we extracted source events from a 143.5 arcsec (RAWX = 20–55) wide box centred on the source position. For background, we used a rectangular box with RAWX = 3–18. Using the *SAS* task EPATPLOT, we evaluated the pile-up fraction for both the EPIC-pn data sets and found no significant photon pile-up. We used the source and background event lists to create the source and background spectra for both the data sets. We generated the response matrix and ancillary response files using the *SAS* task RMFGEN and ARFGEN, respectively. We followed a similar procedure to extract source and background spectra from the second observation. We rebinned the EPIC-pn spectra to over sample the full width at half-maximum (FWHM) of the energy resolution by a factor of 5 and to have a minimum of 20 counts per bin.

For the MOS2 timing-mode data, we used events with PATTERN = 0, FLAG = 0 and energy in the 0.3–10 keV range. We used rectangular regions of width RAWX = 270–338 (74.8 arcsec) for the source and 260–270 for the background and extracted the source and background spectra. We have also extracted the background spectra from the MOS2 imaging mode data. The generation of the response files and grouping of the source spectra were performed in the same way as done for EPIC-pn data. Although it has been recommended to use the imaging mode background for the MOS2 timing-mode data,¹ we formed two sets of MOS2 spectral data with the timing-mode source spectrum in combination with (i) the timing-mode MOS2 background spectrum and (ii) imaging mode MOS2 background spectrum. We grouped both the data sets in the same way as done for the EPIC-pn data, and compared the two MOS2 data sets with different backgrounds. We fitted simple absorbed power-law model to each of the two sets. We found that the two MOS2 background spectra result in largely similar residuals.

¹ <http://xmm2.esac.esa.int/docs/documents/CAL-TN-0018.pdf> (see XMM-SOC-CAL-TN-18, 2014 September 1), we have compared the MOS2 spectra by using both imaging mode background from the outer CCDs and timing-mode background from the central CCD.

However, in simultaneous EPIC-pn and MOS2 spectral fitting, we found slightly larger discrepancy if we used the MOS2 spectral data with the imaging mode background. Hence we have used the timing-mode background spectrum for further analysis. There still remains a small discrepancy between the EPIC-pn and MOS2 spectra, which is consistent with calibration uncertainty (Read, Guainazzi & Sembay 2014).

For the analysis of the data of the Reflection Grating Spectra (RGS), we used RGSPROC tool to reduce and extract calibrated source and background spectrum and response files. We extracted the light curve from the data contained in outer CCD (CCD number = 9) to check for particle background. GTI correction was applied with expression rate ≤ 0.2 . Spectra and response files of first order obtained from RGS1 and RGS2 were combined by using the *SAS* task RGSCOMBINE. We grouped the spectra with minimum 15 counts per bin by using GRPPHA.

3 SPECTRAL ANALYSIS

We used *XSPEC* version 12.8.1g (Arnaud 1996) to perform the spectral analysis. We begin with spectral analysis of the EPIC-pn and MOS2 data obtained from the obs 1. We first fit the 2–10 keV data with a simple power-law model modified by the *TBABS* (Wilms, Allen & McCray 2000) component to account for the Galactic absorption. Verner cross-section (Verner et al. 1996) and Wilms abundance (Wilms et al. 2000) are applied in *TBABS*. A model *CONSTANT* is applied to account for relative normalization between the instruments. Power-law index Γ is tied for the pn and MOS2 data. The simple power-law model resulted in $\Gamma \sim 1.5$ and $\chi^2 = 524.3$ for 416 degrees of freedom (dof). Extrapolating the power law to low energies revealed a broad excess below 2 keV which is likely the thermal emission from an accretion disc. Performing the fit over the 0.3–10 keV (pn and MOS2), the absorbed power law resulted in $\chi^2/\text{dof} = 2801/558$. Addition of a multicolour disc blackbody component *DISKBB* (Mitsuda et al. 1984) improved the fit ($\chi^2/\text{dof} = 1870/556$). The resulting fit showed a broad excess at 1 keV in the EPIC-pn data from both the observations. However, the broad excess was not seen in the MOS2 data. To investigate this discrepancy, we attempted to fit the EPIC-pn, MOS2 and RGS data simultaneously. Due to lack of counts, we excluded RGS data below 1 keV.

Fig. 2 shows the observed EPIC-pn, MOS2 and RGS data, folded model and the residuals. The data sets agree well above 1.2 keV. Unfortunately, we cannot verify the 1-keV excess with the RGS data. However, similar excess in the timing-mode data have also

been reported by several authors (Boirin et al. 2005; Martocchia et al. 2006; Sala et al. 2008; Hiemstra et al. 2011). We find that the EPIC-pn and MOS2 data show excess emission below ~ 1.2 keV but with different shapes. The origin of this excess is not clearly understood and may well be related to instrumental calibration. We thus excluded the 0.3–1.2 keV band data from the subsequent spectral analysis. We have also excluded RGS data due to its poor signal-to-noise ratio.

The absorbed disc blackbody plus power-law model fits the 1.2–10 keV data from obs 1, reasonably well. The reduced χ^2 is 1.31 for 476 dof. Examination of the residuals from this fit reveals an excess features like emission lines at ~ 3.9 keV and ~ 6.4 keV (see Fig. 3). In order to model the structure around ~ 6.4 keV, a Gaussian emission feature with an energy of $6.3^{+0.1}_{-0.1}$ keV and width (σ) of < 0.2 keV was first added to the existing model. This improves the fit with $\Delta\chi^2 = -37.2$ for three parameters. We also fit the data obtained from the obs 2 with the same model, which resulted in $\chi^2/\text{dof} = 652.1/472$. The feature ~ 3.9 keV is very weak and its exact nature is not clear to us. The Gaussian line at ~ 6.3 keV has substantial velocity width ($\sim 27\,000$ km s $^{-1}$ for obs 1 and obs 2) and can be readily identified with a broadened fluorescent iron K α emission line from the accretion disc. To account for the relativistic broadening of the line, we replaced the Gaussian component at ~ 6.3 keV with the *DISKLINE* model (Fabian et al. 1989). This resulted in $\chi^2/\text{dof} = 590.7/472$ for obs 1 (Table 2, model 1) and $\chi^2/\text{dof} = 651.2/471$ for obs 2. (Table 3, model 1)

To describe the continuum with a more physical model, we have also fitted the continuum with the *NTHCOMP* model (Zdziarski, Johnson & Magdziarz 1996; Życki, Done & Smith 1999). Fitting the 1.2–10 keV data from obs 1 with the *TBABS* \times (*DISKBB* + *NTHCOMP*) model provided an acceptable fit with $\chi^2/\text{dof} = 630.8/476$. Here the fitting residuals also showed the same emission features around the same energy. In order to investigate the relativistic broadening of the line, we replaced the Gaussian line with the *DISKLINE* model (see Fig. 4). This resulted in $\chi^2/\text{dof} = 592.2/472$ for obs 1 (Table 2, model 4) and $\chi^2/\text{dof} = 651.5/471$ for obs 2 (Table 3, model 4). We fixed the emissivity index (β) and the outer radius of the disc to the value -3.0 and $1000r_g$ respectively for both the observations. The best-fitting parameter values for different models are reported in Tables 2 and 3 for obs 1 and 2, respectively.

We have also checked for the variation of iron line energy and disc blackbody parameters by using different continuum models such as *POWERLAW*, *SIMPL* (Steiner et al. 2009), *COMPTT* (Hua & Titarchuk 1995; Titarchuk & Lyubarskij 1995) and *NTHCOMP*. We find that the best-fitting parameters of the iron line and the thermal accretion

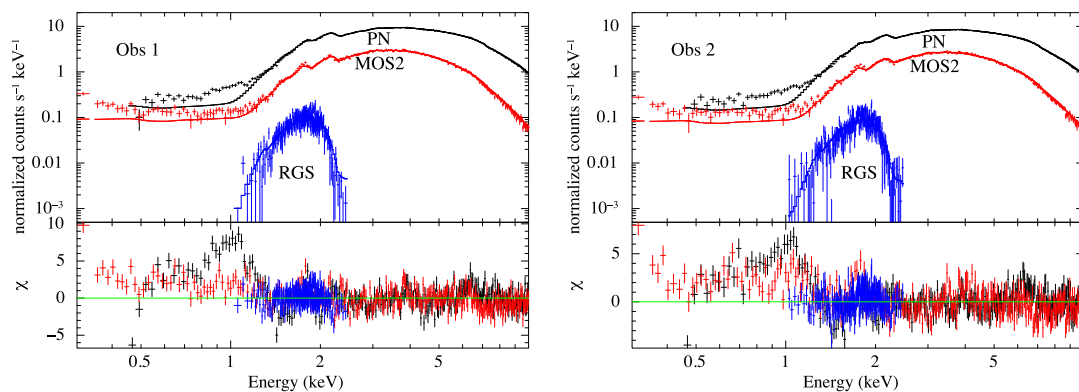


Figure 2. The EPIC-pn, MOS2 and RGS observed data, the model *CONST* \times *TBABS* \times (*DISKBB* + *POWERLAW*) simultaneously fitted to these data sets. The residuals of obs 1 (left-hand panel) and obs 2 (right-hand panel) show clear discrepancy between the these data sets below ~ 1.2 keV.

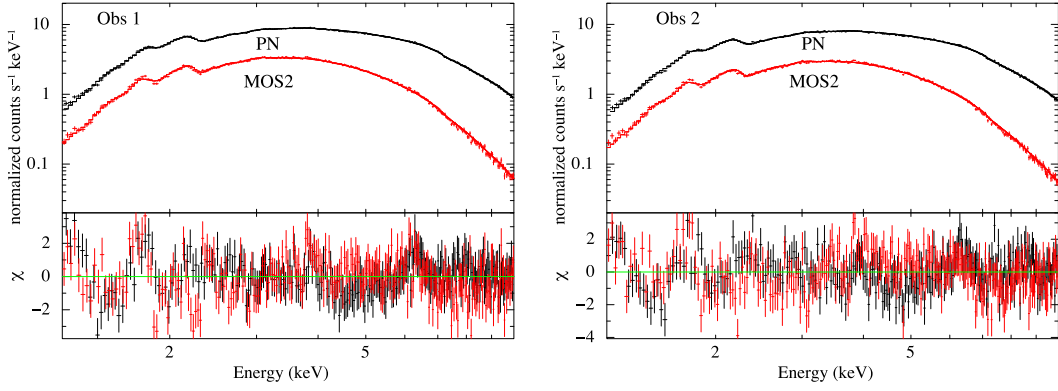


Figure 3. The EPIC-pn and MOS2 observed data and the best-fitting $\text{CONST} \times \text{TBABS} \times (\text{DISKBB} + \text{POWERLAW})$ model (top panel) and residuals (bottom panel) for obs 1 (left) and obs 2 (right). The residuals show possible presence of emission features at ~ 6.4 keV.

Table 2. Best-fitting spectral model parameters of IGR J17497–2821 based on the combined spectral analysis of EPIC-pn and MOS2 data sets from obs1.

| | | obs1 (obs.ID : 0410580401) | | | |
|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Model component | Parameter | Model 1 | Model 2 | Model 3 | Model 4 |
| CONSTANT | | 1.0(fixed)(pn) | 1.0(fixed)(pn) | 1.0(fixed)(pn) | 1.0(fixed)(pn) |
| | | $0.9^{+0.004}_{-0.004}$ (MOS2) | $0.7^{+0.007}_{-0.008}$ (MOS2) | $0.9^{+0.004}_{-0.004}$ (MOS2) | $0.9^{+0.004}_{-0.004}$ (MOS2) |
| TBABS | $N_{\text{H}} (\times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2})$ | $7.5^{+0.1}_{-0.1}$ | $7.5^{+0.1}_{-0.1}$ | $7.5^{+0.1}_{-0.1}$ | $7.6^{+0.1}_{-0.1}$ |
| DISKBB | $kT_{\text{in}} (\text{keV})$ | $0.2^{+0.006}_{-0.006}$ | $0.2^{+0.006}_{-0.006}$ | $0.2^{+0.006}_{-0.006}$ | $0.2^{+0.006}_{-0.006}$ |
| | Norm ($\times 10^5$) | $2.9^{+1.0}_{-0.7}$ | $3.1^{+1.0}_{-0.8}$ | $2.8^{+1.0}_{-0.7}$ | $3.3^{+1.1}_{-0.8}$ |
| DISKLINE | $E_{\text{line}} (\text{keV})$ | $6.5^{+0.2}_{-0.3}$ | $6.6^{+0.1}_{-0.4}$ | $6.5^{+0.2}_{-0.3}$ | $6.6^{+0.2}_{-0.4}$ |
| | β | −3.0(fixed) | −3.0(fixed) | −3.0(fixed) | −3.0(fixed) |
| | $r_{\text{in}} (r_{\text{g}})$ | $14.6^{+952.1}_{-6.5}$ | $11.5^{+203.6}_{-3.8}$ | $20.3^{+968.6}_{-11.4}$ | $14.3^{+235.3}_{-6.5}$ |
| | $r_{\text{out}} (r_{\text{g}})$ | 1000(fixed) | 1000(fixed) | 1000(fixed) | 1000(fixed) |
| | Inclination (θ) | $13.8^{+25.6}_{\text{peg}}$ | $15.2^{+43.0}_{\text{peg}}$ | $11.2^{+35.2}_{\text{peg}}$ | $13.4^{+41.8}_{\text{peg}}$ |
| | $f_{\text{line}} (\times 10^{-4})$ | $1.5^{+0.7}_{-0.6}$ | $1.9^{+0.7}_{-0.8}$ | $1.2^{+0.9}_{-0.4}$ | $1.6^{+0.8}_{-0.6}$ |
| POWERLAW | Γ | $1.5^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$ | | | |
| | Norm | $0.1^{+0.002}_{-0.002}$ | | | |
| SIMPL | Γ | | $1.5^{+0.01}_{-0.02}$ | | |
| | Fracsctr | | $0.03^{+0.004}_{-0.005}$ | | |
| COMPTT | $T0 (\text{keV})$ | | | $0.2^{+0.006a}_{-0.006}$ | |
| | τ | | | $0.7^{+0.02}_{-0.02}$ | |
| | norm ($\times 10^{-3}$) | | | $3.8^{+0.06}_{-0.05}$ | |
| NTHCOMP | Γ | | | | $1.50^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$ |
| | $kT_{\text{bb}} (\text{keV})$ | | | | $0.2^{+0.006b}_{-0.006}$ |
| | Norm | | | | $0.1^{+0.002}_{-0.002}$ |
| χ^2/dof | | 590.7/472 | 651.2/472 | 590.0/472 | 592.2/472 |

Notes. We used $\text{CONST} \times \text{TBABS} \times (\text{CONTINUUM} + \text{DISKBB} + \text{DISKLINE})$ to fit spectrum. For CONTINUUM component, we applied POWERLAW, SIMPL, COMPTT and NTHCOMP in model 1, 2, 3 and 4 respectively.

^a and ^b parameters tied with kT_{in} parameter of DISKBB.

disc are consistent within error for the different continuum models (Tables 2 and 3).

4 TEMPORAL ANALYSIS

4.1 The timing-mode XMM–Newton EPIC-pn data

The timing-mode EPIC-pn data with a time resolution of 30 μs are well suited to study temporal behaviour of IGR J17497–2821. We used the General High-energy Aperiodic Timing Software (GHATS)

software package (version 1.1.0)² for our timing analysis. We first generate the PDSs over the entire 0.3–10 keV band from the source event lists for both the observations. The data were divided into time segments of length 786 s, and a Fourier transform was performed with the Nyquist frequency set at ~ 42 Hz. The resulting PDSs were Poisson noise corrected (van der Klis 1995a) and logarithmically

² http://astrosat.iucaa.in/~astrosat/GHATS_Package/Home.html

Table 3. Best-fitting spectral model parameters of IGR J17497–2821 based on the combined spectral analysis of EPIC-pn and MOS2 data sets from obs 2.

| | | obs 2 (obs.ID : 0410580501) | | | |
|-----------------|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Model component | Parameter | Model 1 | Model 2 | Model 3 | Model 4 |
| CONSTANT | | 1.0(fixed)(pn) | 1.0(fixed)(pn) | 1.0(fixed)(pn) | 1.0(fixed)(pn) |
| | | $0.9^{+0.004}_{-0.004}$ (MOS2) | $0.7^{+0.006}_{-0.008}$ (MOS2) | $0.9^{+0.004}_{-0.004}$ (MOS2) | $0.9^{+0.004}_{-0.004}$ (MOS2) |
| TBABS | $N_H (\times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2})$ | $7.6^{+0.1}_{-0.1}$ | $7.5^{+0.1}_{-0.1}$ | $7.5^{+0.1}_{-0.1}$ | $7.7^{+0.05}_{-0.1}$ |
| DISKBB | $kT_{\text{in}} (\text{keV})$ | $0.2^{+0.005}_{-0.006}$ | $0.2^{+0.004}_{-0.004}$ | $0.2^{+0.006}_{-0.006}$ | $0.2^{+0.005}_{-0.006}$ |
| | Norm($\times 10^5$) | $3.5^{+1.1}_{-0.8}$ | $3.5^{+1.3}_{-0.8}$ | $3.4^{+1.1}_{-0.8}$ | $4.0^{+1.3}_{-0.9}$ |
| DISKLINE | $E_{\text{line}} (\text{keV})$ | $6.6^{+0.2}_{-0.5}$ | $6.6^{+0.1}_{-0.2}$ | $6.6^{+0.2}_{-0.5}$ | $6.6^{+0.2}_{-0.2}$ |
| | β | −3.0(fixed) | −3.0(fixed) | −3.0(fixed) | −3.0(fixed) |
| | $r_{\text{in}} (r_g)$ | $11.5^{+80.1}_{-3.8}$ | $10.8^{+40.3}_{-4.1}$ | $11.7^{+90.0}_{-3.8}$ | $11.2^{+41.8}_{-3.8}$ |
| | $r_{\text{out}} (r_g)$ | 1000(fixed) | 1000(fixed) | 1000(fixed) | 1000(fixed) |
| | Inclination (θ) | $13.2^{+31.7}_{\text{peg}}$ | $15.1^{+12.9}_{\text{peg}}$ | $13.7^{+46.8}_{\text{peg}}$ | $13.9^{+11.5}_{\text{peg}}$ |
| | $f_{\text{line}} (\times 10^{-4})$ | $1.5^{+0.6}_{-0.5}$ | $1.9^{+0.6}_{-0.5}$ | $1.5^{+0.6}_{-0.5}$ | $1.6^{+0.7}_{-0.5}$ |
| | | | | | |
| POWERLAW | Γ | $1.5^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$ | | | |
| | Norm | $0.1^{+0.002}_{-0.002}$ | | | |
| SIMPL | Γ | | $1.5^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$ | | |
| | Fracsctr | | $0.02^{+0.004}_{-0.004}$ | | |
| COMPTT | $T_0 (\text{keV})$ | | | $0.2^{+0.006}_{-0.006}$ ^a | |
| | τ | | | $0.8^{+0.02}_{-0.02}$ | |
| | Norm($\times 10^{-3}$) | | | $3.5^{+0.05}_{-0.05}$ | |
| NTHCOMP | Γ | | | | $1.5^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$ |
| | $kT_{\text{bb}} (\text{keV})$ | | | | $0.2^{+0.005}_{-0.006}$ ^b |
| | Norm | | | | $0.1^{+0.002}_{-0.001}$ |
| | χ^2/dof | 651.2/471 | 741.7/471 | 651.3/471 | 651.5/471 |

Notes. We used $\text{CONST} \times \text{TBABS} \times (\text{CONTINUUM} + \text{DISKBB} + \text{DISKLINE})$ to fit spectrum. For CONTINUUM component, we applied POWERLAW, SIMPL, COMPTT and NTHCOMP in model 1, 2, 3 and 4 respectively.

^a and ^b parameters tied with kT_{in} parameter of DISKBB.

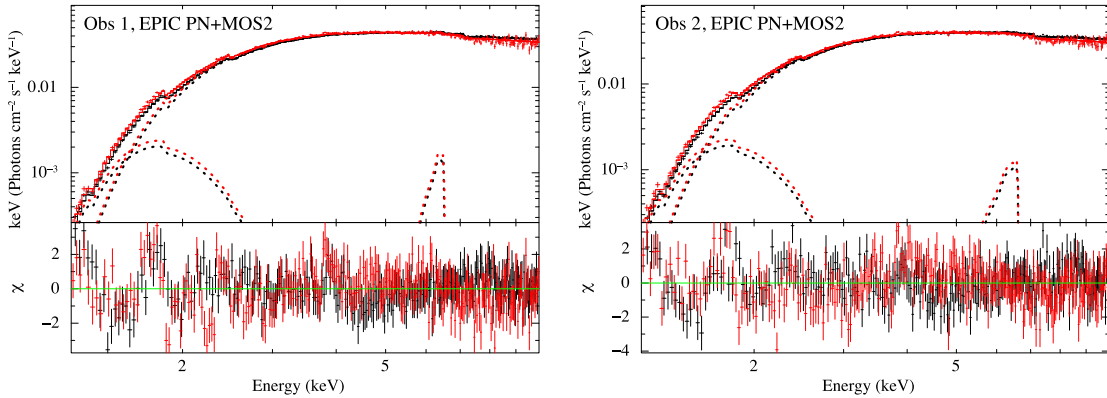


Figure 4. The unfolded EPIC-pn+MOS2 spectral data and the best-fitting model $\text{TBABS} \times (\text{DISKBB} + \text{NTHCOMP} + \text{DISKLINE})$ (see Tables 2 and 3 for best-fitting parameters) and deviations of the observed data from the model. Emission line at $\sim 6.6 \text{ keV}$ (obs 1 and 2) can be identified as the broad iron $K\alpha$ line modelled as DISKLINE.

rebinned. The PDSs were evaluated using rms normalization (Belloni & Hasinger 1990; van der Klis 1995b).

Following (Nowak 2000; Belloni, Psaltis & van der Klis 2002b), we fit the broad-band noise components in the PDSs using Lorentzian models with the following expression

$$P(\nu) = \frac{r^2 \Delta}{\pi} \frac{1}{\Delta^2 + (\nu - \nu_0)^2}, \quad (1)$$

where $P(\nu)$ is the power spectral density, r the integrated fractional rms, Δ is the half-width at half of the maximum power and ν_0 the centroid frequency. As is typical of black hole binaries (Nowak 2000; Belloni et al. 2002b) we attempt to fit the PDS with three Lorentzian components (as shown in Fig. 5): a broad zero-centred low-frequency noise component (LFN), a middle component (mid-frequency noise or MFN) and a broad zero-centred component to account for the noise beyond 1 Hz (high-frequency noise or HFN). A similar approach was followed in a previous work on the *RXTE*

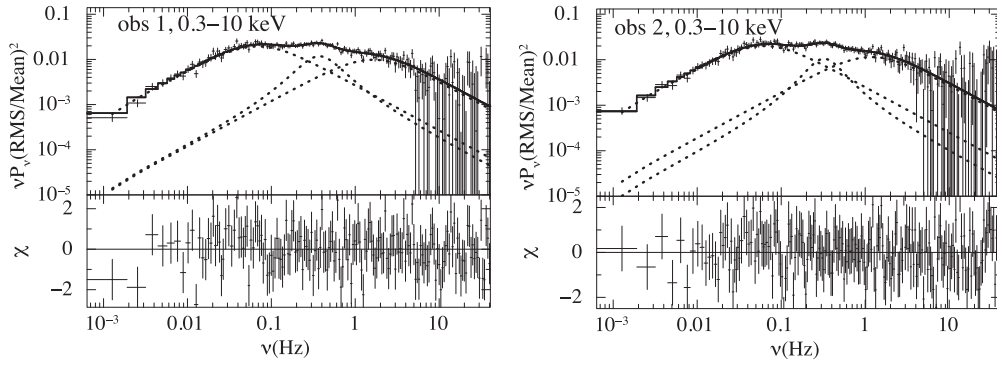


Figure 5. The *XMM-Newton* PDSs of obs 1 and obs 2 of IGR J17497–2821 derived from the full band EPIC-pn fitted with three Lorentzians (top panel) and residuals (bottom panel). The PDSs were derived from the high time resolution (30 μ s) EPIC-pn data obtained from obs 1 and obs 2 with *XMM-Newton*.

Table 4. Results of fits to the PDSs of IGR J17497–2821 derived from the timing-mode EPIC-pn data. Frequency range 0.01–40 Hz has been used to calculate the integrated rms.

| Model component ^a | Parameter ^b | 0.3–2 keV | 2–5 keV obs 1 (obs.ID : 0410580401) | 5–10 keV | 0.3–10 keV |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| LFN | 2 Δ (Hz) | $0.1^{+0.03}_{-0.02}$ | 0.1 ± 0.01 | $0.1^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$ | 0.1 ± 0.01 |
| | Norm | $6.07^{+0.9}_{-0.9} \times 10^{-02}$ | $5.8^{+0.4}_{-0.5} \times 10^{-02}$ | $6.4^{+0.3}_{-0.4} \times 10^{-02}$ | $6.1^{+0.3}_{-0.4} \times 10^{-02}$ |
| HFN | 2 Δ (Hz) | $4.1^{+2.0}_{-1.4}$ | $2.5^{+1.7}_{-0.9}$ | $3.0^{+1.0}_{-0.8}$ | $3.3^{+0.7}_{-0.6}$ |
| | Norm | $0.1^{+0.03}_{-0.03}$ | $2.9^{+0.9}_{-1.0} \times 10^{-02}$ | $3.7^{+0.5}_{-0.6} \times 10^{-02}$ | $3.1^{+0.3}_{-0.4} \times 10^{-02}$ |
| MFN | ν_0 (Hz) | – | $0.3^{+0.05}_{-0.08}$ | $0.3^{+0.04}_{-0.05}$ | $0.3^{+0.04}_{-0.05}$ |
| | 2 Δ (Hz) | – | $0.4^{+0.2}_{-0.2}$ | $0.3^{+0.2}_{-0.1}$ | $0.4^{+0.1}_{-0.1}$ |
| | Norm | – | $1.8^{+1.3}_{-1.0} \times 10^{-02}$ | $1.4^{+0.7}_{-0.5} \times 10^{-02}$ | $2.0^{+0.7}_{-0.5} \times 10^{-02}$ |
| | Significance (σ) ^c | – | 2.8 | 3.9 | 5.9 |
| | Integrated rms (in percentage) | $43.0^{+1.0}_{-1.0}$ | $32.0^{+0.3}_{-0.3}$ | $33.0^{+0.4}_{-0.4}$ | $32.3^{+0.2}_{-0.2}$ |
| | mean count rate(counts s ^{−1}) ^d | 2.8 | 23.3 | 17.8 | 43.8 |
| | χ^2/dof | 88.0/104 | 140.9/133 | 200.1/192 | 152.0/163 |
| obs 2 (obs.ID : 0410580501) | | | | | |
| LFN | 2 Δ (Hz) | $0.1^{+0.03}_{-0.02}$ | 0.1 ± 0.01 | $0.1^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$ | 0.1 ± 0.01 |
| | Norm | $6.3^{+1.0}_{-1.0} \times 10^{-02}$ | $6.0^{+0.3}_{-0.3} \times 10^{-02}$ | $6.5^{+0.4}_{-0.4} \times 10^{-02}$ | $6.3^{+0.3}_{-0.3} \times 10^{-02}$ |
| HFN | 2 Δ (Hz) | $3.2^{+2.1}_{-1.2}$ | $1.9^{+0.6}_{-0.4}$ | $3.9^{+1.8}_{-1.2}$ | $2.4^{+0.5}_{-0.4}$ |
| | Norm | $0.1^{+0.04}_{-0.03}$ | $4.1^{+0.5}_{-0.7} \times 10^{-02}$ | $3.3^{+0.5}_{-0.6} \times 10^{-02}$ | $3.6^{+0.4}_{-0.4} \times 10^{-02}$ |
| MFN | ν_0 (Hz) | – | $0.3^{+0.03}_{-0.04}$ | $0.3^{+0.03}_{-0.04}$ | $0.3^{+0.03}_{-0.04}$ |
| | 2 Δ (Hz) | – | $0.2^{+0.2}_{-0.1}$ | $0.4^{+0.1}_{-0.1}$ | $0.3^{+0.1}_{-0.09}$ |
| | Norm | – | $9.3^{+8.0}_{-4.9} \times 10^{-03}$ | $2.0^{+0.8}_{-0.6} \times 10^{-02}$ | $1.5^{+0.6}_{-0.5} \times 10^{-02}$ |
| | Significance (σ) ^c | – | 2.9 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| | Integrated rms (in percentage) | $44.0^{+1.8}_{-1.5}$ | $33.0^{+0.3}_{-0.2}$ | $34.0^{+0.5}_{-0.4}$ | $32.6^{+0.2}_{-0.2}$ |
| | mean count rate(counts s ^{−1}) ^d | 2.6 | 21.2 | 16.2 | 39.9 |
| | χ^2/dof | 90.9/104 | 130.8/133 | 207.1/192 | 181.2/192 |

^aLFN and HFN are Lorentzian components used to model the low- and high-frequency noise. The centroid frequencies of the LFN and HFN components were frozen to zero. MFN is the mid-frequency Lorentzian used to fit broad feature between low- and high-frequency noise components in the PDS. Sum of two Lorentzians are applied for energy band 0.3–2 keV, whereas sum of three Lorentzians are applied for energy bands 2–5, 5–10 and 0.3–10 keV.

^b ν_0 and 2 Δ are the centroid frequency and FWHM of the Lorentzian, respectively.

^cThe significance of the middle component computed with 1 σ error is presented separately.

^dmean count rate is calculated from light curves in the 0.3–2, 2–5, 5–10 and 0.3–10 keV band after applying standard filtering and taking source region of 15 pixel width.

timing analysis by Rodriguez et al. (2007, hereafter JR07). The fit results are presented in Table 4. The total rms variability was found to be ~ 32 per cent (frequency range 0.01–40 Hz).

The shape and nature of the power spectra and rms variability are often found to vary with energy (Belloni et al. 1997; Lin et al. 2000). Such trends gives important clues to the nature of the intrinsic emission processes and cause of the observed variability. Hence,

we have divided 0.3–10 keV band EPIC-pn data into three different energy bands 0.3–2, 2–5 and 5–10 keV, for the timing analysis. The main motivation of performing the energy-dependent timing analysis was to identify if the timing characteristics are correlated with the spectral parameters. The choice of the energy bands are indeed empirical to some extent. The low-energy band (0.3–2 keV) was selected to sample the photons which might predominantly

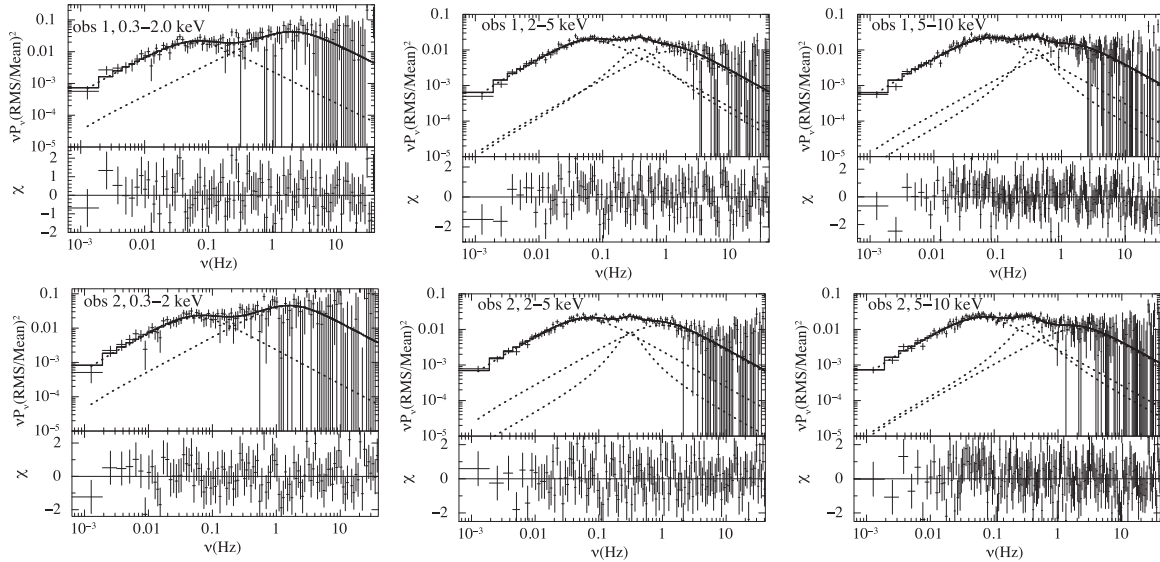


Figure 6. The PDSs of IGR J17497–2821 in different energy bands fitted with Lorentzian (top panel of plots) and residual (bottom panel of plots). The PDSs were derived from the high time resolution (30 μ s) EPIC-pn data obtained from obs 1 and obs 2 with *XMM-Newton*. Sum of two Lorentzians are applied to the PDSs in the 0.3–2 keV band and sum of 3 Lorentzians are applied for the PDSs in the 2–5 and 5–10 keV bands.

originate from the accretion disc. The highest count rate was found to be in the 2–5 keV band, whereas the 0.3–2 keV band had the lowest count rate (see Table 4). Signal-to-noise ratio of the 2–5 keV band data was found to be approximately three times more than that of 0.3–2 keV band for both observations.

We have computed the PDSs of three the energy bands (0.3–2, 2–5 and 5–10 keV) following the method as described earlier. We consider only those components which are detected with 3σ significance or above.³ We find that the MFN component is detected significantly only at high-energy bands (2–5 keV and 5–10 keV).

For obs 1, the 0.3–2 keV band PDS fit well with only the LFN and HFN components ($\chi^2/\text{dof} \sim 88/104$). The PDS of the 2–5 keV energy band was first fitted with two zero-centred Lorentzian (LFN and HFN) as before, with $\chi^2/\text{dof} = 158.31/136$. Introducing of a middle component at ~ 0.3 Hz improves the fit ($\chi^2/\text{dof} = 140.95/133$), with the significance of the resulting MFN being $\sim 3\sigma$. The PDS of the 5–10 keV band similarly required all three Lorentzian components for a satisfactory fit (as shown in Fig. 6).

To test the possible presence of an MFN component in the 0.3–2 keV band, we applied a Lorentzian with centroid and width fixed to that of the MFN component of the 2–5 keV band. We varied the norm of the applied Lorentzian to obtain a fit to the PDS. The resulting improvement in χ^2 was marginal with $\Delta\chi^2 = -3$ for one additional parameter, with the component being 1.5σ significant. Computing the errors with 90 per cent confidence limit, we find the strength of the norm to be $\sim 0.014^{+0.014}_{-0.014}$. Thus, the lower limit is consistent with zero confirming that the component may not be significant. However, the upper limit is comparable to the strength of the MFN in the 2–5 keV band (see Table 4). Quality of the 0.3–2 keV data is poor as compared to the data in the 2–5 keV. This also affects the significance of MFN in low-energy band 0.3–2 keV. This indicates that although the MFN component may not be significant, but we cannot rule out its presence given the current SNR of the data.

The PDSs of obs 2 were fitted in a similar fashion as described above (see Table 4). For both observations, integrated rms values (frequency range 0.01–40 Hz) for PDSs of energy bands 0.3–2, 2–5, 5–10 and 0.3–10 keV are reported in Table 4.

4.2 *RXTE*/PCA data

To test the energy dependence of the PDS over the course of the outburst we have analysed the available *RXTE* data in different energy channels. *RXTE* monitored this source from 2006 September 20 to 29. For south Atlantic anomaly correction, we removed 30 min of data. In this duration, the satellite was exposed to strong radiation. Number of Proportional Counter Units (PCUs) which observe the source is different for different observations. 92016-01-01-00, 92016-01-01-02, 92016-01-02-01 and 92016-01-02-02 have observed the source with 4, 1, 1 and 2 PCU, respectively. In this work, we have performed the timing analysis for all the four observations with GOODXENON event files. The *RXTE*/PCA timing analysis was performed for the energy bands 2–5, 5–10 and 10–20 keV, respectively with GHATS V 1.1.0. The PDSs were created for time segments of length 128 s with a Nyquist frequency of 64 Hz and deadtime corrections were applied (Zhang et al. 1995). Logarithmic rebinning was applied to the Poisson noise corrected PDS. The resulting PDSs were fitted with Lorentzian components as described in Section 4.1. We present in Fig. 7 the PDSs of different energy bands of the *RXTE* observations and describe the results below.

We found that a significant MFN component was detected only in the 5–10 keV and 10–20 keV of obsID 92016-01-01-00 (September 20). The 2–5 keV band was first fitted with the LFN and HFN components ($\chi^2/\text{dof} = 141.77/136$). The remaining residual structures at ~ 0.3 Hz was then fitted with the MFN component to get the final χ^2/dof to be 128.86/133. The middle broad noise component was found to be only $\sim 2.67\sigma$ significant, and hence discarded from the final results as we retain only those components with a detection significance above $\sim 3\sigma$. Signal-to-noise ratio of the data in the 2–5 keV is found to be 1.3 times smaller than the 5–10 keV band. So the presence of MFN cannot be discarded

³ Obtained by dividing the norm of the component with the lower limit of the error computed with 1σ confidence interval.

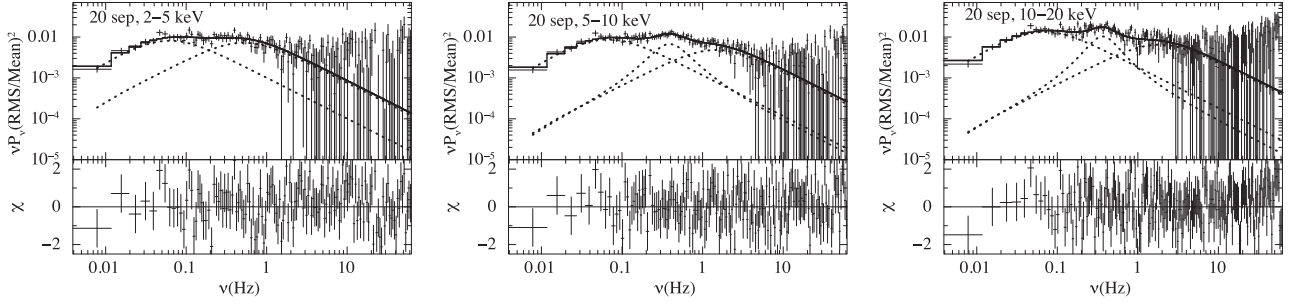


Figure 7. PDSs of *RXTE* obsID 92016-01-01-00 (September 20) in energy bands 2–5 keV, 5–10 keV and 10–20 keV fitted with Lorentzians (top panel of plots) and residual (bottom panel of plots).

Table 5. Results of fits to the PDS of *RXTE/PCA* observations on 2006 September 20 and 23. Frequency range 0.01–64 Hz is used to calculate the rms.

| obsID | Model component | Parameter | 2–5 keV | 5–10 keV | 10–20 keV |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 92016-01-01-00 (20 Sep. 2006) | LFN | 2Δ (Hz) | $0.1^{+0.02}_{-0.02}$ | $0.1^{+0.02}_{-0.02}$ | $0.1^{+0.02}_{-0.02}$ |
| | | Norm | $2.6^{+0.4}_{-0.4} \times 10^{-02}$ | $2.7^{+0.2}_{-0.3} \times 10^{-2}$ | $4.2^{+0.4}_{-0.4} \times 10^{-2}$ |
| | HFN | 2Δ (Hz) | $1.0^{+0.3}_{-0.2}$ | $2.9^{+1.1}_{-0.7}$ | $3.7^{+1.2}_{-0.9}$ |
| | | Norm | $2.3 \pm 0.3 \times 10^{-2}$ | $1.5^{+0.3}_{-0.3} \times 10^{-2}$ | $2.0^{+0.3}_{-0.3} \times 10^{-2}$ |
| | MFN | ν_0 (Hz) | | $0.3^{+0.05}_{-0.08}$ | $0.3^{+0.04}_{-0.05}$ |
| | | 2Δ (Hz) | | $0.4^{+0.2}_{-0.1}$ | $0.3^{+0.1}_{-0.09}$ |
| | | Norm | | $1.0^{+0.6}_{-0.4} \times 10^{-2}$ | $1.4^{+0.5}_{-0.4} \times 10^{-2}$ |
| | | Significance (σ) ^a | | 4.0 | 5.4 |
| | Integrated rms (in percentage) | | $21.3^{+0.2}_{-0.3}$ | $22.3^{+0.2}_{-0.3}$ | $26.7^{+0.3}_{-0.3}$ |
| | χ^2/dof | | 141.8/136 | 159.6/156 | 220.1/201 |
| 92016-01-01-02 (23 Sep. 2006) | LFN | 2Δ (Hz) | $7.5^{+2.7}_{-2.0} \times 10^{-2}$ | $7.8^{+2.8}_{-2.1} \times 10^{-2}$ | $8.3^{+2.8}_{-2.1} \times 10^{-2}$ |
| | | Norm | $2.0 \pm 0.5 \times 10^{-2}$ | $2.3 \pm 0.5 \times 10^{-2}$ | $3.3^{+0.7}_{-0.7} \times 10^{-2}$ |
| | HFN | 2Δ (Hz) | $0.9^{+0.3}_{-0.2}$ | $0.9^{+0.2}_{-0.2}$ | $1.0^{+0.3}_{-0.2}$ |
| | | Norm | $2.9^{+0.5}_{-0.6} \times 10^{-2}$ | $3.5^{+0.4}_{-0.4} \times 10^{-2}$ | $4.4^{+0.6}_{-0.6} \times 10^{-2}$ |
| | Integrated rms (in percentage) | | $21.1^{+0.7}_{-0.7}$ | $23.1^{+0.4}_{-0.4}$ | $26.6^{+0.6}_{-0.7}$ |
| | χ^2/dof | | 129.0/112 | 114.6/112 | 208.7/204 |

^aThe significance of the middle component computed with 1σ error is presented separately.

Table 6. Results of fits to the 0.01–64 Hz PDS of *RXTE/PCA* observations on September 24 and 25.

| obsID | Model component | Parameter | 2–5 keV | 5–10 keV | 10–20 keV |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 92016-01-02-01 (24 Sep. 2006) | LFN | 2Δ (Hz) | $0.1^{+0.05}_{-0.04}$ | $0.1^{+0.05}_{-0.04}$ | $0.1^{+0.09}_{-0.05}$ |
| | | Norm | $2.8^{+0.7}_{-0.7} \times 10^{-2}$ | $2.6^{+0.7}_{-0.7} \times 10^{-2}$ | $4.0^{+1.2}_{-1.2} \times 10^{-2}$ |
| | HFN | 2Δ (Hz) | $1.4^{+1.4}_{-0.6}$ | $0.9^{+0.4}_{-0.2}$ | $1.6^{+2.0}_{-0.6}$ |
| | | Norm | $2.5^{+0.7}_{-0.8} \times 10^{-2}$ | $3.5^{+0.6}_{-0.7} \times 10^{-2}$ | $4.3^{+0.9}_{-1.0} \times 10^{-2}$ |
| | Integrated rms (in percentage) | | $22.3^{+1.0}_{-1.0}$ | $23.9^{+0.7}_{-0.7}$ | $28.0^{+1.0}_{-0.9}$ |
| | χ^2/dof | | 155.5/136 | 105.8/112 | 130.5/136 |
| 92016-01-02-02 (25 Sep. 2006) | LFN | 2Δ (Hz) | $0.1^{+0.04}_{-0.03}$ | $0.1^{+0.03}_{-0.03}$ | $0.1^{+0.04}_{-0.03}$ |
| | | Norm | $2.3^{+0.6}_{-0.6} \times 10^{-2}$ | $3.0^{+0.6}_{-0.6} \times 10^{-2}$ | $3.6^{+0.8}_{-0.8} \times 10^{-2}$ |
| | HFN | 2Δ (Hz) | $0.8^{+0.3}_{-0.2}$ | $1.0^{+0.3}_{-0.2}$ | $0.9^{+0.3}_{-0.2}$ |
| | | Norm | $2.7^{+0.5}_{-0.5} \times 10^{-2}$ | $2.8^{+0.5}_{-0.5} \times 10^{-2}$ | $3.7^{+0.7}_{-0.7} \times 10^{-2}$ |
| | Integrated rms (in percentage) | | $21.5^{+0.4}_{-0.7}$ | $23.3^{+0.4}_{-0.4}$ | $26.3^{+0.5}_{-0.5}$ |
| | χ^2/dof | | 107.0/112 | 157.3/136 | 180.4/159 |

as lower significance of MFN may be due to bad quality data of 2–5 keV band. The PDSs of the 5–10 and 10–20 keV energy ranges were fit in a similar fashion with three Lorentzian components. In both cases the middle component was required for the fit with a

significance of $\sim 4.0\sigma$ and $\sim 5.4\sigma$, respectively (see Tables 5 and 6). Thus similar to the results of *XMM-Newton* data, a statistically significant MFN component was detected only at the higher energy bands. The PDS of other obsIDs analysed fit well with only

two Lorentzian components, with the MFN being not statistically significant.

5 DISCUSSION

In this work, we have presented the spectral and timing analysis of the two *XMM-Newton* observations on 2006 September 22 (obs 1) and 26 (obs 2) of the black hole X-ray binary IGR J17497–2821. Following the detection of the source as an X-ray nova on 2006 September 17, several X-ray telescopes (*RXTE*, *Swift*, *INTEGRAL*, *Suzaku* and *Chandra*) have followed the outburst. The two *XMM-Newton* observations were performed during the middle of the outburst of IGR J17497–2821 (see Fig. 1).

From our spectral analysis (Section 3), we find that the 1.2–10 keV spectra of IGR J17497–2821 from both the observations are well described by a multicoloured disc blackbody with an inner disc temperature $kT_{\text{in}} \sim 0.2$ keV and NTHCOMP continuum model. The absorbed flux is $f_{\text{X}} = 4.9 \times 10^{-10} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ (EPIC-pn) in the 1.2–10 keV and corresponding absorption corrected fluxes are $f_{\text{X}} = 8.6 \times 10^{-10} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ (EPIC-pn), for obs 1 (model 4 in Table 2). The distance to the source is not known. Considering its close angular proximity to the Galactic Centre, we assume a distance of ~ 8 kpc. This gives the observed luminosity as $\sim 3.5 \times 10^{36} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$ and absorption corrected luminosity as $\sim 6.2 \times 10^{36} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$ (EPIC-pn) in the 1.2–10 keV band for obs 1 (model 4 in Table 2). IGR J17497–2821 was slightly fainter in the second observation with an absorbed flux $f_{\text{X}} = 4.5 \times 10^{-10} \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ and corresponding unabsorbed flux $f_{\text{X}} = 8.3 \times 10^{-10} \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ in the 1.2–10 keV band. From the combined analysis of the EPIC-pn and MOS2 data, we find the flux of the disc blackbody component to be ~ 5 times lower than that of the power-law component in the 1.2–10 keV range. The strong and hard ($\Gamma \sim 1.50$) (EPIC-pn) power law and a weak disc component are typical of black hole X-ray binaries in the hard state (see e.g. Belloni et al. 2002a; Fender, Belloni & Gallo 2004; Remillard & McClintock 2006).

We also detected a broad (FWHM $\sim 27\,000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$) fluorescent iron $K\alpha$ line from IGR J17497–2821 in both the *XMM-Newton* observations. The apparent inner disc radius R_{in} is obtained from the normalization of the DISKBB component,

$$N_{\text{DBB}} = \left(\frac{R_{\text{in}}/\text{km}}{D/10 \text{ kpc}} \right)^2 \cos \theta. \quad (2)$$

We take inclination and normalization from DISKLINE and DISKBB component, respectively, and estimate the limits on the disc inner radius as $400 < R_{\text{in}} < 703 \text{ km}$ (obs 1) (model 4 in Table 2) and $445 < R_{\text{in}} < 613 \text{ km}$ (obs 2) (model 4 in Table 3). The apparent inner disc radius R_{in} inferred from the DISKBB component is related to the realistic inner disc radius r_{in} by

$$r_{\text{in}} = \xi \kappa^2 R_{\text{in}} \quad (3)$$

(Kubota et al. 1998), where $\kappa \sim 1.7$ – 2.0 (e.g. Shimura & Takahara 1995) is the ratio of colour temperature to effective temperature, and ξ is a correction factor to account for the fact that the maximum disc temperature T_{in} , occurs at a radius slightly larger than the actual inner radius r_{in} . Kubota et al. (1998) calculated $\xi = 0.412$. However, we note that exclusion of the low-energy data below ~ 1.2 keV in this work (as mentioned in Section 3) introduces uncertainties in the values of the disc temperature and radius computed in this work.

The results from the *XMM-Newton* spectral analysis are in keeping with the general trends of the different physical parameters as observed by various X-ray instruments. In Fig. 8, we present

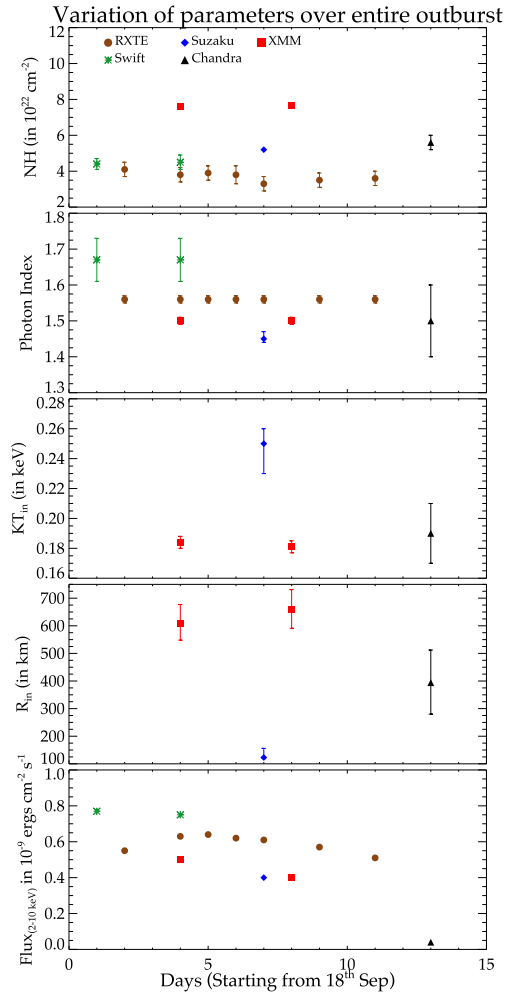


Figure 8. From top to bottom: N_{H} , photon index, kT_{in} , R_{in} and $\text{flux}_{2-10 \text{ keV}}$, respectively, from spectral fits of data of different X-ray telescopes (marked in different colours). The parameter values plotted have been taken from following references: 1 – Rodriguez et al. (2007) for *RXTE* (brown), absorbed power law is used to calculate Γ and model $\text{PHABS} \times \text{EDGE} \times \text{COMPTT}$ is used to calculate N_{H} and flux; 2 – Walter et al. (2007) for *INTEGRAL* and *Swift* (green), absorbed cut-off power law has been used to calculate parameters; 3 – our work for *XMM-Newton* (red), $\text{CONST} \times \text{TBABS} \times (\text{NTHCOMP} + \text{DISKBB} + \text{DISKLINE})$ is used to calculate parameters; 4 – Paizis et al. (2009) for *Suzaku* (blue), model $\text{WABS} \times \text{EDGE} \times \text{CUTOFFPL}$ is used to calculate Γ and $\text{WABS} \times (\text{GAUSS} + \text{DISKBB} + \text{COMPPS})$ is used to calculate kT_{in} , N_{H} , R_{in} and Flux; and 5 – Paizis et al. (2007) for *Chandra* telescope, $\text{PHABS} \times (\text{DISKBB} + \text{POWERLAW} + \text{GAUSS})$ is used to calculate the parameters. The flux values in the lower panel are the scaled fluxes in the 2–10 keV range derived from broad-band model fits to respective data sets.

the comparison of our results with previous works by Walter et al. (2007, hereafter RW07) on joint spectral fit of *Swift*/XRT and *INTEGRAL* data, analysis of *Suzaku* data by Paizis et al. (2009, hereafter AP09), JR07 for *RXTE* results and Paizis et al. (2007, hereafter AP07) for analysis of *Chandra* data. It is difficult to directly compare the different spectral parameters from previous works on this source owing to the different spectral models used for the analysis. However, qualitative trends in the variation of different parameters can be ascertained. The neutral absorption derived from our results ($N_{\text{H}} \sim 7.5 \times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$) is different from other observations.

The photon index ($\Gamma \sim 1.50$) from the analysis of both observations is consistent with previous estimates from *Suzaku* data

by AP09. However, the Γ inferred from the *RXTE* and *Swift*–*INTEGRAL* observations by JR07 and RW07 during the outburst is significantly different. AP09 ascribe the difference to effects from instrumental cross-calibration. Also, the source being close to the Galactic Centre, possible contamination from the Galactic background may affect spectral analysis of data from *RXTE*/PCA with wide field of view. Indeed the neutron star *Swift* J1749.4–2807 (within ~ 13 arcmin radius of IGR J17497–2821) was also active during this period as reported by Wijnands et al. (2009). However, the qualitative trend for the results from different instruments is similar, and the Γ was nearly constant during the outburst.

Suzaku and *Chandra* observations showed the evidence of an accretion disc with inner disc temperature $kT_{\text{in}} \sim 0.25$ keV and $kT_{\text{in}} \sim 0.2$ keV, respectively, as reported in AP09 and AP07, respectively. This is consistent with the value obtained for our analysis of the two *XMM*–*Newton* observations ($kT_{\text{in}} \sim 0.2$ keV). To compare with previous results, we have computed the apparent inner disc radius assuming an inclination angle of 60° and distance 8 kpc. We found $R_{\text{in}} = 649^{+100}_{-84}$ km and 715^{+108}_{-85} km for obs 1 and obs 2, respectively. Comparing the results we find that the radii estimated from the *XMM*–*Newton* and *Chandra* observations are close in value, within errors, whereas that from the *Suzaku* data on September 25 is lower than the above estimates, indicating the formation of an accretion disc. However, the discrepancy could also be due to different models and energy bands used for calculation of disc radius with different instruments. The *RXTE*/PCA light curve (Fig. 1) shows a monotonic variation in the count rate. Fig. 8 shows that the 2–10 keV flux measured with *Suzaku* is significantly lower by ~ 50 per cent than that measured with *RXTE*/PCA on the same day. This difference is likely to be due to the uncertainties in the absolute flux calibration of *RXTE*/PCA and the burst and window modes of *Suzaku*/XISs. The lower inner radius measured with the *Suzaku* data may be due to the lower DISKBB normalization which in turn may be related to the uncertainty in the absolute flux calibration.

The lowest panel of Fig. 8 shows the variation of the flux scaled to the 2–10 keV energy band, calculated from the reported best-fitting model parameters by RW07, JR07, AP07 and AP09. Flux of the source shows gradual decrease with time with the flux on 2006 October 01 (AP07) being nearly 20 times lower than that at the beginning on 2006 September 19. We have presented the variation of hardness ratio (ratio of counts in 8.6–18 keV to 5.0–8.6 keV energy bands) as defined in Remillard & McClintock (2006) with the average PCU2 counts (5–18 keV) in Fig. 9. The source is clearly seen to have hardness ≥ 0.76 throughout the outburst. From the overall results of the spectral analysis, the source appears to stay in the hard state during its entire outburst with $\Gamma \leq 2$.

Although differing in frequency and energy range, the full band (0.3–10 keV) PDS derived from the timing-mode EPIC-pn data are similar to that obtained from the *RXTE* data performed by JR07. As in JR07, we require three Lorentzian components to fit the PDS (LFN, MFN and HFN for $\nu \geq 1$ Hz). Such broad features is typical of black hole binaries (e.g. Cyg x-1 and GX 339–4; Nowak 2000). Characteristic frequencies of LFN, HFN and MFN are consistent with the JR07. For same frequency (0.01–40 Hz) and energy (2–10 keV) range, the fit parameters of the LFN, MFN and HFN are similar for both the *RXTE* and *XMM*–*Newton* observations. However, the integrated rms for the *XMM*–*Newton* data were found to be ~ 32 per cent, larger than that of the *RXTE* (~ 23 per cent).

Based on our energy-dependent timing analysis of *XMM*–*Newton* and *RXTE*, we find that the timing behaviour of IGR J17497–2821 strongly depends on the energy band. The MFN feature is not

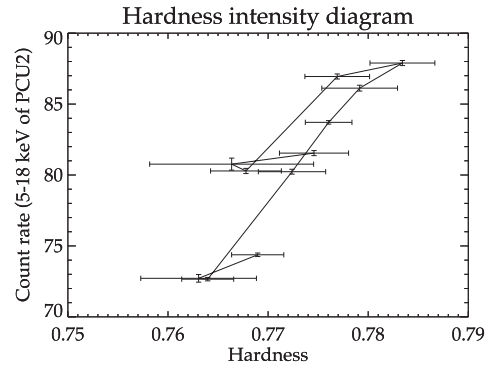


Figure 9. Hardness intensity diagram with X-axis representing the hardness of the source and Y-axis the PCU2 counts for 5–18 keV energy range. The hardness is defined as the ratio of the counts in the energy band 8.6–18 keV to 5.0–8.6 keV, following Remillard & McClintock (2006).

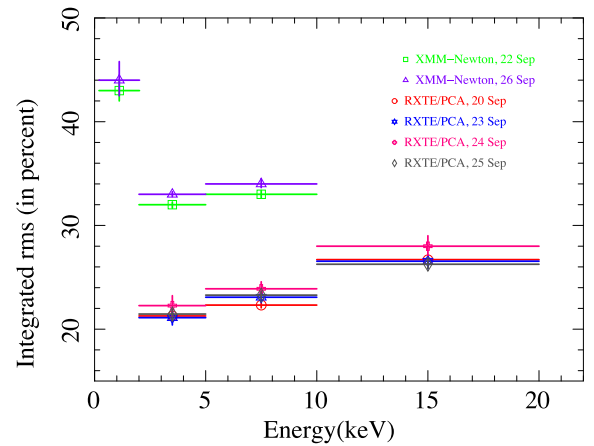


Figure 10. Variation of integrated rms with different energy bands for *XMM*–*Newton*/EPIC-pn and *RXTE*/PCA observations. Frequency range 0.01–40 Hz is used to calculate rms. The rms values are of 68 per cent confidence limit.

present in the low-energy band [0.3–2 keV (*XMM*–*Newton*), 2–5 keV (*RXTE*)], which could be due to poor signal-to-noise ratio in this band. But variation of rms is found to be strongly dependent on energy bands. Softer energy bands had higher fractional rms e.g. rms of the energy band 0.3–2 keV of *XMM*–*Newton* data was nearly ~ 1.3 times that of the energy bands 2–5 and 5–10 keV. However, at higher energies, the rms variability was found to increase with energy. Such a behaviour though typical for black holes in high/soft state (Belloni et al. 1997), is not common for sources in hard state. Increased variability at higher energy in the hard state of some sources e.g. 1E 1740.7–2942 and Cyg X-1 have been reported by Lin et al. (2000).

Also, we see from Fig. 10, that the magnitude of the rms variability is lower for *RXTE* observations than that of *XMM* data. A possible reason for the above could be increase of the mean flux due to contribution from the galactic ridge emission to the *RXTE* data (see Section 5). Although the accreting millisecond pulsar *Swift* J1749.4–2807, within the *RXTE* field of view of IGR J17497–2821, was also present in outburst at the same time (Wijnands et al. 2009), its flux was ~ 3000 times less than that of IGR J17497–2821, could not have contributed to the background.

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APPENDIX A: DIMINISHED RMS VARIABILITY DUE TO CONTAMINATION FROM THE GALACTIC RIDGE EMISSION

RXTE/PCA being a non-imaging detector with a large field of view, is more susceptible to contamination from background X-ray flux due to the Galactic ridge emission, as opposed to *XMM-Newton*. Excess background can lower the net observed fractional rms variability (rms/mean). Following Rodríguez et al. (2007) if we consider the *RXTE* obsID 30185-01-20-00⁴ to represent the Galactic background emission, the mean count rate of the background emission then was found to be ~ 30 counts s⁻¹ in the 2–10 keV band. Using the WEBPIMMS tool,⁵ we find the equivalent *RXTE*/PCA count rate of the 2–10 keV flux of IGR J17497–2821 measured with *XMM-Newton* to be 51 counts s⁻¹. Thus the sum of the estimated *RXTE*/PCA count rate and the Galactic background is ~ 81 counts s⁻¹. This is similar to the mean 2–10 keV count rate of 80 counts s⁻¹ measured from the *RXTE* obsID 92016-01-00. Thus it is entirely possible that the addition of background flux due to the Galactic ridge emission to the source flux can lower the observed rms variability of IGR J17497–2821, as seen in our case.

⁴ Observed at the end of the 1998 outburst of XTE J1748-288.

⁵ <http://heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/cgi-bin/Tools/w3pimms/w3pimms.pl>

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